Utilisation of Natural Gas in A.P.

596. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and the quantity of LPG consumption of the State; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to utilise natural gas to its optimum level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The present available natural gas of around 7.0 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) is being supplied to various consumers in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) While, currently no quantity of natural gas is being processed to extract Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) around 508 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of LPG was consumed during 2000-01 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) 7.0 MMSCMD, which is currently available in Andhra Pradesh, is being fully utilised. Efforts are also on to step up exploration activities, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-I and NELP-II.

Special concessions to farmers on price of diesel

†597. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of the farmers of the country is worsening due to the sale of diesel at equal rate for commercial vehicles as well as machines used for agricultural purposes in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to provide some special concesions to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Deficit in oil pool account

598. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the trends in oil pool deficit during the last three years;

(b) whether the deficit is on the increase; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to reduce the oil pool deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The cumulative deficit in the oil pool account for the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001 was as follows:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Cumulative deficit
1998-99	3,408
1999-2000	6,256
2000-2001	12,594

(c) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies against the oil pool account will be liquidated by issuing oil bonds to the concerned companies.

Difference over subsidy on LPG

599. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for removing or reducing subsidy from LPG and kerosene;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a difference of opinion with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, what are the points of difference between the two?